

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, RP
SUBJECT: GOP ISSUES STATISTICS ON AMNESTY AND DETAINEES

REF: STATE 124645

1. SUMMARY: GOP DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED 64-PAGE BOOK ON "PHILIPPINE MARTIAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS" CONTAINING BRIEF SECTIONS ON AMNESTY AND DETAINEES. IT REPORTS THAT 3,342 AMNESTY APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND 1,647 HAVE BEEN APPROVED THUS FAR. AS OF APRIL 24, MILITARY DETAINEES NUMBERED 2,015, OF WHOM 473 ARE CHARGED WITH SECURITY-RELATED CRIMES. NO NAMES ARE PROVIDED. END SUMMARY.

2. A UN-SPONSORED REGIONAL MEETING ON CRIME PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS OPENED IN MANILA MAY 14. FOR THE EDIFICATION OF CONFEREES, GOP'S DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE DISTRIBUTED 64-PAGE BRIEFING BOOK ENTITLED "PHILIPPINE MARTIAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS." BRIEF SECTIONS ON "AMNESTY" AND "NO POLITICAL PRISONERS" ARE QUOTED IN FULL BELOW.

3. BEGIN QUOTE: AMNESTY. THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE THAT
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MANY OF THE MEMBERS AND FOLLOWERS OF SUBVERSIVE ASSOCIATIONS, ACTIVIST GROUPS, AND FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, ARE NOT DIE-HARD IDEOLOGICAL BELIEVERS OF THE SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENT, BUT HAD BEEN DRAWN INTO IT BECAUSE OF THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH, OR AS A RESULT OF THEIR SUBTLE INDOCTRINATION BY ITS HARD-CORE LEADERS.

- AS MISGUIDED ELEMENTS IN PHILIPPINE SOCIETY, THEY HAVE

BEEN TREATED BY THE GOVERNMENT WITH COMPASSION AND UNDER-
STANDING SO THAT THEY MAY REGAIN THEIR FAITH IN THE DULY
CONSTITUTED AUTHORITIES AND BECOME CO-WORKERS IN THE
ATTAINMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES TO REFORM THE COUNTRY'S
SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STRUCTURES. THUS, AS EARLY
AS 11 JANUARY 1973 OR ABOUT THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE
PROCLAMATION OF MARTIAL LAW, THE PRESIDENT, BY PRESI-
DENTIAL DECREES, PROCLAIMED AMNESTY FOR CERTAIN OFFENDERS.
TO DATE, NO LESS THAN TEN (10) AMNESTY DECREES HAVE BEEN
ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT COVERING PRACTICALLY ALL SEGMENTS
OF SUBVERSIVE ASSOCIATIONS AND FRONT ORGANIZATIONS.

- TO IMPLEMENT SAID DECREES, TWELVE (12) AMNESTY COMMIS-
SIONS, ASSISTED BY PROVINCIAL AMNESTY TEAMS, WERE
CONSTITUTED TO HANDLE THE PROCESSING OF AMNESTY APPLICA-
TIONS. TO DATE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED A TOTAL OF
3,342 APPLICATIONS, OF WHICH 1,647 WERE RECOMMENDED
FAVORABLY BY THE COMMISSION AND APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT.
FIFTY SEVEN (57) APPLICATIONS WERE DENIED BY THE PRESIDENT;
240 APPLICATIONS ARE STILL PENDING PRESIDENTIAL ACTION.
THIRTEEN APPLICATIONS WERE VOLUNTARILY WITHDRAWN BY
APPLICANTS. THE COMMISSIONS ARE STILL CONSIDERING THE
REMAINING 1,369 OTHER APPLICATIONS.

4. NO POLITICAL PRISONERS. IN THE PHILIPPINES, THERE IS
NO PERSON WHO IS DETAINED FOR HIS POLITICAL BELIEFS. ALL
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PERSONS DETAINED WERE ARRESTED ON CRIMINAL CHARGES.
MAJORITY OF THE DETAINEES ARE CHARGED WITH SUCH COMMON
CRIMES AS MURDER, HOMICIDE, RAPE, ROBBERY, SERIOUS
PHYSICAL INJURIES AND SWINDLING. THE REST ARE ACCUSED OF
VIOLATING THE LAWS ON PUBLIC ORDER SUCH AS THE ANTI-SUB-
VERSION LAW (REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1700).

- AS OF 24 APRIL 1978, A TOTAL OF 2,015 PERSONS ARE
STILL UNDER MILITARY CUSTODY. 1,632 ARE BEING HELD FOR
COMMON CRIMES AND THE REMAINING 473 FOR VARIOUS VIOLATIONS
OF THE EXISTING LAWS ON SEDITION, REBELLION AND SUBVER-
SION. END QUOTE.

5. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT NEITHER SET OF FIGURES --
NEITHER AMNESTY APPLICATIONS NOR MILITARY DETAINEES --
ADDS UP INTERNALLY TO THE TOTALS PROVIDED. WE CAN OFFER
NO GUIDANCE AS TO HOW TO RECONCILE THEM. END COMMENT.

6. COPY OF COMPLETE BOOK POUCHED TO EA/PHL. TOUSSAINT

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Message Attributes

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